



Tunstall Urban District Council.



Medical Officer's Report

For the Year ending December, 1906.



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Medical Officer's Report

For the year ending December, 1906.

TO THE TUNSTALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT, and have the pleasure of being able to tell of a lowered death rate, and considerable improvement in the public health and sanitary condition of the town.

POPULATION.

My estimate of the population in the middle of 1906 is 27,850, and these figures form the basis of the following statistics. The area of the district remains unaltered, being 1,750 acres, with a density of population of 15·9 per acre. The number of inhabited houses amounts to 5,360, giving an average of 5·2 persons per house.

BIRTHS.

992 Births have been registered during the year. These are equally distributed, 496 being male births, and 496 female births, giving a birth rate of 35·6 per 1000 living. This rate presents but slight difference when compared with the preceding year, and compares somewhat unfavourably with the average rate for the past ten years. In addition I find the interments of 38 still-born children have been registered at the Cemetery.

DEATHS.

543 Deaths have been registered in the district during the year. Of these 302 were males and 241 females, and indicate an annual rate of mortality of 19·5 per 1000 of the estimated population. If we exclude the Workhouse (in which 103 deaths occurred) from our calculations, the rate works out at 16·4 per 1000, while it is but 17·3 if we still include the Workhouse and consider only the deaths therein of persons belonging to the township of Tunstall.

The incidence of mortality was greatest in the months of September, November, and December, owing to an epidemic of Diarrhœa in September, and the prevalence of Measles and Whooping Cough during the latter months.

The following table gives in detail vital statistics of the whole district for 1906 and previous ten years.

Year.	Population Estimated to Middle of each year.	Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of non-residents registered in Public In- stitutions in the district	Deaths of residents re- gistered in Public Insti- tutions beyond district	Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to District	
		Num- ber	Rate	Under 1 year of age		At all Ages					Num ber	Rate
				Num ber	Rate per 1000 bi'ths reg.	Num ber	Rate					
1896	16510	732	44·3	142	194	347	21					
1897	16658	665	39·9	156	234	349	20·9					
1898	16807	701	41·7	163	232	430	25·5					
1899	16956	700	41·2	126	181	383	22·5					
1900	18516	795	42·9	141	241	544	29·3					
1901	19492	708	36·3	156	221	455	23·3	22			455	23·3
1902	19962	816	40·8	145	177	396	19·8	30			426	21·3
1903	20334	739	40·6	135	182	373	18·3	19			392	19·2
1904	26420	922	34·9	226	245	575	21·7	57	40	4	539	29·4
1905	27350	998	36·4	205	205	599	21·9	121	77	6	528	19·3
Averages for years 1896-1905	19900·5	777	39·9	159	211	445	22·4					
1906	27850	992	35·7	184	185·4	543	19·5	103	68	8	483	17·3

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

I am pleased to be again able to report some improvement in this matter, but the figures still leave much to be desired. The deaths of children under one year of age in 1906 amounted to 184. This number represents an infant mortality of 185·4 per 1000 births registered, and is 19·6 per 1000 less than the rate recorded for 1905. In the subjoined table it will be noted that fully 40 per cent. of the deaths of infants have been attributed to Prematurity Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus, &c. conditions, having in many cases an ante-natal origin. These children are simply born in such poor physical condition, that they are unfit to live and find a few hours or days of life too much for them. Facts such as these point to some serious social defects, such as intemperance, marriage of the unfit, and factory employment of married women.

Diseases of the lungs, such as Bronchitis and Pneumonia are responsible for the next highest in the number of victims.

Better housing conditions in my opinion might obviate the mortality from these causes. Many of the children when seized with these diseases, instead of being carefully nursed in a comfortably warmed bedroom, receive but half hearted attention in the living room of the family.

Diarrhœal diseases have claimed an equal number of victims during the year. For the reduction of mortality from Diarrhœa our efforts must be directed to measures which will bring about greater cleanliness in and around the houses. We must see that the yards and back entries are properly paved, and push on with the total abolition of privy middens, the provision of water closets and frequently emptied dust bins. The milk supply should also be placed on a better system. Many of the milk shops fall very far below an ideal standard of purity.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1906.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
ALL CAUSES.																		
Certified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	177
Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
1. COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES.																		
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria : Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	9
2. DIARRHŒAL DISEASES.																		
Diarrhœa, all forms	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	3	1	3	1	2	...	2	2	1	18
Enteritis, Muco-Enteritis, Gastro-Enteritis	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. WASTING DISEASES.																		
Premature Birth	...	19	1	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Congenital Defects	...	2	3	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Want of Breast-milk—Starvation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	4	3	2	7	16	2	11	3	3	5	3	1	5	...	2	1	52
4. TUBERCULOUS DISEASES.																		
Tuberculous, Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
5. OTHER CAUSES.																		
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	...	...	1	1	7
Convulsions	...	8	2	1	3	14	...	4	3	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	24
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	...	1	2	...	...	13
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	1	...	1	3	1	1	11
Suffocation, overlaying	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Causes	...	...	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	2	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	9
		33	9	5	16	63	5	23	16	16	11	8	8	7	11	7	9	184

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

An increase of 12 has occurred in the number of deaths from the principal epidemic diseases, the numbers being distributed as follows: Measles 4, Scarlet Fever 2, Whooping Cough 13, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup 9, Enteric Fever 3, Diarrhœa and Enteritis 30. For the year 1905 the total was 49. The excess in 1906 is accounted for by 5 more deaths from Diarrhœa, and 7 from Diphtheria.

The Zymotic rate works out at 2·19 per 1000, as compared with 1·8 per 1000 for the preceding year. The bulk of the deaths from Diarrhœa occurred in August and September, when there had been a sustained high atmospheric temperature, and which by favouring the occurrence of dust and dirt and the breeding of flies brings about pollution of milk and other foods.

DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

have caused 80 deaths, a decrease of 11 when compared with the preceding year. A large proportion of this number is attributed to deaths from Convulsions. Unfortunately the word convulsions has come to be used as synonymous with disease, but in reality being a word indicating a symptom rather than a disease does not convey the exact cause of death.

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

have caused 81 deaths, a decrease of 38 as compared with the preceding year. The incidence of these diseases was noted chiefly in the months of January and December, and is attributable to sudden and severe seasonal changes. The mortality from these causes among young children is aggravated by careless exposure of children to cold and a lack of intelligent nursing when they are seized with chest complaints.

CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES

have caused 94 deaths, an increase of 2 when compared with the preceding year. 38 of the cases have been caused by Phthisis, and 19 from other forms of Tuberculoses. These are diseases generally associated with bad ventila-

tion, overcrowding and a want of cleanliness in the person and surroundings. If vigorous measures be adopted to obviate such defects I feel sure we should soon experience a satisfactory diminution in the cases of this terrible scourge. Permit me to suggest again the adoption of a voluntary or even a compulsory notification of Phthisis. The infectious nature of this disease is but little understood by the general public, and a visit from the Sanitary Inspector to infected houses would no doubt be attended by good results.

Advice could be given as to the precautionary measures which should be adopted in dealing with the sputum, as to the maintenance of cleanliness in the home, and as to the ventilation of the rooms occupied by the patient. In cases in which death occurred or in which there had been removal of the patient, the Sanitary Inspector would undertake disinfection of the room.

REMOVAL OF NIGHT SOIL AND ASHES.

No complaint can be found with the manner in which this work is done, and accumulations are seldom if ever to be met with. I should like to see adopted an universal system of galvanized dust bins and placed under cover. At present wooden bins are principally used, and as they are exposed openly to the weather very quickly fall to pieces, with the result that yards are frequently weeks without any receptacle whatever. The existence of ash pits whenever possible should be terminated, since their presence involves emptying ashes, &c., into the street, a practice it is needless to say is most objectionable and unsanitary.

Continued progress is again in evidence with regard to the abolition of the privy system, no fewer than 76 having been converted to water closets. I regret to find nothing has yet been done towards placing the district known as Hyde Park, Chell, in a sound condition, and trust no further delay will be allowed in the matter.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The subjoined table shews the number of cases of Infectious sickness notified during the year:—

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in whole District.							No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.
	AT ALL AGES	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox								
Cholera								
Diphtheria	65		22	37	3	3		23
Membranous croup	6		4	2				
Erysipelas	32	1	4		2	25		
Scarlet fever	70	1	36	30	2	1		28
Typhus fever								
Enteric fever	12		2	4	1	5		6
Relapsing fever								
Continued fever								
Puerperal fever	1					1		
Plague								
Totals	186	2	68	73	8	35		57

23 cases of Diphtheria, 28 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 6 cases of Enteric Fever were removed for treatment to the Isolation Hospital. During the last three months of the year we have been associated with the Burslem Corporation in the use of their well-equipped New Isolation Hospital, and as there will now be no difficulty in the matter of accommodation for our patients, I am hopeful the arrangements will be attended with gratifying results in the diminution of infectious cases.

When the patient remained at home isolation has been secured as far as practicable, personal advice given, and each house wherein attacks were notified has been thoroughly disinfected.

WATER SUPPLY

has been as usual. Some complaints have been received from Goldenhill regarding pollution of the supply by what appeared to be vegetable matter. The attention of the

Water Company has been called to the same. Otherwise the constancy and sufficiency of the supply have been satisfactory.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

I beg to submit my Fifth Annual Report under the Factory and Workshop Act. Systematic visits have been paid to all the known workshops in the town, both by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. In no instance was there any overcrowding, and the ventilation in all the shops visited was quite satisfactory. I had to complain of a want of cleanliness in four instances, and in two cases the sanitary conveniences were defective. Notices to obviate the same were served and complied with.

Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses are all in a very satisfactory condition, and no underground bakehouses are to be found in the town.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM PARTINGTON.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecution
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	226	4	None
Workshops... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces			
TOTAL			

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	No. of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Ins'r	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	4	4		None
Want of Ventilation	Nil			
Overcrowding	Nil			
Want of drainage of floors	Nil			
Other Nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient... ..	1	1		
{ unsuitable or defect'e	1	1		
{ not separate for sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses... (S. 101)	Nil			
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake- houses (SS. 97 to 100)	Nil			
Other Offences	Nil			
TOTAL	6	6		

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.				Number
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here	Bakehouses	...	...	17
	Joiners	...	...	8
	Cabinetmakers	...	...	6
	Coopers	...	...	1
	Boot repairers...	...	..	13
	Cratemakers	...	...	10
	Confectioners	...	..	1
	Dressmakers	...	...	22
	Hosiers	...	...	2
	Tailors	...	...	11
	Saddlers	...	...	2
	Tinplate workers	...	...	2
	Plumbers	...	...	4
	Coach builders	...	...	1
	Smiths	...	...	2
	Wheelwrights	...	...	2
	Cloggers	...	...	1
	Boat builder	...	...	1
	Firewood chopper	...	...	1
	Engraver	...	...	1
	Beer bottler	...	...	1
	Fruit preserving	...	...	1
	Pickling	...	...	2
	Die fitting	...	...	1
Total number of Workshops on Register...				113

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	1
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (s. 5)	1
Other	
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	None
Certificates granted during the year	
In use at the end of the year	

	AGES.											
	0	1	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	Totals
	to 1	to 5	to 15	to 25	to 35	to 45	to 55	to 65	to 75	to 85	& up.	
I. Specific Febrile, or Zymotic Diseases ...	27	18	2	1	...	2	2	2	...	...	...	54
II. Parasitic Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
III. Dietic Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
IV. Constitutional Diseases ...	7	14	8	4	11	12	18	13	7	...	...	94
V. Developmental Diseases ...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	33	23	4	86
VI. Local Diseases ...	72	28	4	5	10	26	28	54	23	4	...	254
VII. Deaths from Violence...	2	3	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	9
VIII. Deaths from Ill-Defined and Not Specified Causes	51	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	54
TOTALS ...	184	64	14	10	22	41	49	71	65	27	4	551

SUMMARY.

No. of
Deaths

I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE, OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES.			
1. Miasmatic Diseases	...	...	32
2. Diarrhoeal	...	...	19
3. Malarial	...	...
4. Zoogenous	...	...
5. Venereal	...	...	1
6. Septic	...	...	2
II.—PARASITIC DISEASES			...
III.—DIETIC DISEASES			...
IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES			94
V.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES			86
VI.—LOCAL DISEASES.			
1. Diseases of Nervous System...	...	...	80
2. Diseases of Organs of Special Sense	...	...
3. Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	50
4. Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	81
5. Diseases of Digestive System	...	...	35
6. Diseases of Lymphatic System	...	...
7. Diseases of Gland-like Organs of Uncertain Use	...	...
8. Diseases of Urinary System ...	...	...	5
9. Diseases of Reproductive System	...	...
(a). Diseases of Organs of Generation	...	...
(b). Diseases of Parturition	...	...	3
10. Diseases of Bones and Joints	...	...
VII.—DISEASES OF INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM			...
VII.—VIOLENCE.			
1. Accident or Negligence	...	...	9
2. Homicide	...	...
3. Suicide	...	...
4. Execution	...	...
VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES			54

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK

Done in the Nuisances Inspector's Department during the
year 1906, in the Urban District of Tunstall.

		Number of		Abatement Notices		Nuisances Abated after Notice by	
		Inspections and Observations made	Defects found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority	Inspector	Authority
Dwelling-houses and Schools.	Foul Conditions ...	431	375	190	1	337	1
	Structural Defects ..	343	329	167	1	298	1
	Overcrowding ...	10	2	2	...	2	...
	Unfit for Habitation ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Lodging-houses ...	Inspected by Police		...	...	...	...
	Dairies and Milkshops ...	98	5	5	...	5	...
	Cowsheds ...	68	12	12	...	12	...
	Bakehouses ...	32	4	4	...	4	...
	Slaughter-houses ...	324	4	4	...	4	..
	Canal Boats ...	86	4	4	...	4	...
	Ashpits and Privies ...	272	235	84	...	209	...
	Deposits of Refuse & Manure	5	5	5	...	5	...
	Water Closets ...	87	79	49	1	76	3
	Defective Traps...	...	...	...	...	...	...
House Drainage	No Disconnection ...	12	9	4	...	9	...
	Other Faults ...	108	99	56	...	93	...
	Water Supply ...	20	5	1	...	5	...
	Pigsties ...	13	13	13	...	13	...
	Animals improperly kept ...	3	3	3	...	3	...
	Offensive Trades ...	12	1	1	...	1	...
	Smoke Nuisances ...	16	...	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ...		...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...		1940	1244	604	3	1080	5

	Nos.
Seizures of Unwholesome Food
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	...
„ „ Found Adulterated	...
„ of Water taken for Analysis	...
„ „ Condemned as unfit for use	...

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed...	...	...
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	49
Schools ditto ditto	...	...
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease	..	...
Convictions ditto ditto	...	...
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or things	...	...
Convictions ditto ditto	...	...

Disinfectants have been supplied and freely used in any cases under this heading.

(Signed), J. F. ADDISON, Inspector of Nuisances.

Date 29th Jan., 1907

